

THE KANSAS BAR.

The Old Lawyers Meet at Topeka and Have a Social Time—General Ewing Present.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 8.—The annual meeting of the Bar Association of Kansas began last night in the State Senate chamber and proved to be the most entertaining held in years, partly because of the presence of the first members of the Kansas Supreme Court—General Thomas Ewing, of New York, the first Chief Justice, and ex-Associate Justices S. A. Kingman and L. D. Bailey. For the first time in nearly thirty years these former associates on the bench met and renewed their old friendship. The lawyers present—and the State bar was largely represented—appreciated fully this unique occurrence.

Judge Guthrie, president of the association, took his seat of honor at eight o'clock and made a forty minute address on "The Powers and Duties of the Judiciary." He reviewed at length the triple system of government of the United States, in which the legislative, the executive and the judicial were interdependent. The last Legislature submitted to the electors of the State an amendment to the Constitution increasing the number of Justices of the Supreme Court to seven. This would be voted for and against next November. If adopted, it would amply relieve the Supreme Court and secure to the suitors in that tribunal speedy determination of their causes. Every consideration of economy and justice should induce the people to adopt this amendment to the Constitution. The Judge discussed at length the needs of the judiciary of the State and the probabilities of relief from a constitutional convention and closed with an eloquent tribute to that judiciary, which won applause.

General Thomas Ewing was next introduced and the mere announcement of his name was the signal for a burst of applause, which amply evidenced the regard in which he was held. For the next thirty minutes "Auld Lang Syne" held the floor and the General's well timed remarks brought response from many present to whose minds the scenes recounted and faces recalled were of ever-present memory.

In commencing his address General Ewing took his hearers back twenty-nine years to the time when Kansas was struggling for admission to the sisterhood of States and when he was chosen as the first Chief Justice for the new State. He then briefly sketched the wonderful development that had come to the then infant State, dwelling with especial feeling upon the days of struggle just before the war.

The tribute paid by this gallant soldier to the comrades of the olden time who were opposed to the boys in blue in that memorable contest and his hope that the bitterness thus engendered might fade away forever were among the most notable efforts of this gathering. The same could well be said of his account of the part played by Kansas in the fight for freedom.

General Ewing then discussed favorably the proposition to abolish the requirement of unanimity in jury trials in State courts and civil cases, leaving the requirement of unanimity in criminal cases unchanged, and also recommending a proposition to adopt in each State a complete code of the general principles of what was termed by text writers "The Private Law." This was the law which governed the personal regulations and business of men and which was now to be found scattered through the old English, Irish, Scotch and American works.

Judge Solon O. Thatcher also delivered an address, and Judge John Martin, chairman of the committee, appointed to draft resolutions on the death of Judge John H. Usher, made his report.

Hon. A. L. Williams, of Topeka, eloquently eulogized the memory of ex-Judge Usher, of Lawrence, Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior, and ex-Justices Kingman and Bailey also spoke. It was late when the session came to an end, but every lawyer present felt that he had spent an enjoyable evening.

Montana Democrats. HELENA, Mont., Jan. 9.—The Democrats met in joint session. Diligent effort on behalf of W. A. Clark brought out a quorum and on the first ballot Clark and Maginnis were elected Democratic Senators from Montana by a vote of 73 each. W. A. Clark was president of the late constitutional convention of Montana. He is a well known banker and mine owner of Butte. Martin Maginnis has repeatedly represented Montana as Delegate in Congress. Governor Toole signed the certificate of election, but the Secretary of State refuses to sign as required by law, and also withholds the great seal of the State.

Election Frauds. NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Jan. 8.—The Middlesex County grand jury has returned an indictment against Joseph Hayter, Democratic justice of the peace, and Thomas Tenson, late Democratic inspector of elections in the Sixth ward, New Brunswick, for stuffing the ballot box, and an indictment against Mathew Hodlan, Republican inspector of election in the same district, for conspiracy as alleged with Hayter and Reed to allow the commission of fraud. It was this fraud that caused the defeat of John H. Cruger, the Republican candidate for county clerk.

ABOUT KANSAS SUGAR.

Judge Peters, of Kansas, Before the Ways and Means Committee in the Interest of the Sugar Industry of His District.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—In the hearing of the sugar interests by the Ways and Means Committee yesterday Prof. Wiley, of the Agricultural Department, said he did not anticipate very high results from these sorghum experiments in Kansas, as a 10 per cent. article like sorghum could not compete with a 14 per cent. article like beet. Sorghum, however, made an excellent alcohol, and he thought that Kansas stood in its own light in preventing its people from making alcohol.

Mr. Walker, in charge of the silk experiments at the Agricultural Department, stated that cocoons produced in the United States were mostly in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, the latter State furnishing more than one-fourth of all the cocoons produced in this country.

Prof. Stubbs, of Louisiana, a scientific expert, told of his visit last summer to Kansas and of what he learned regarding the outlook for sorghum production in the State. He confidently expected the plant in Kansas to stand on a par with the cane plant of the South.

In behalf of the silk and sorghum sugar interests of Kansas, and particularly of his district, which produced the bulk of the Kansas sugar crop last year, Judge Peters addressed the committee for nearly three-quarters of an hour. He first told of the successful silk station at Peabody, and insisted that this stimulus had helped the industry so that in his district over 5,000 pounds of cocoons were produced last year. People engaged in raising cocoons simply without investment of capital added from \$50 to \$125 to their annual incomes. There was a ready sale for the cocoons. He closed his argument on the silk question by asking for protection on raw silk and said that the manufacturers of silk could take care of themselves.

Judge Peters then went into the sorghum sugar question and stated that, including firsts and seconds, about 1,600,000 pounds of sugar had been raised last year in Kansas as against only 300,000 pounds in 1887 and a little over 600,000 pounds in 1888; under the diffusion process and with modern machinery the product had been more than doubled in one year. He told of the seven big plants for sugar manufacture in Kansas and the arrangements for the erection of others, and then, as he grew in re and more emphatic, he charged that the majority of the Ways and Means Committee were thought to be about to recommend legislation which would strangle this healthy infant.

"The industry is in its infancy yet," said Mr. Peters. "It is a healthy infant, however, and if you don't strangle it or deprive it of the support it has heretofore drawn from the tariff soothing sirup it will grow into the proportions of a healthy full-grown man, if you don't put a bounty on it."

Mr. McKinley asked: "What do you think of a bounty?"

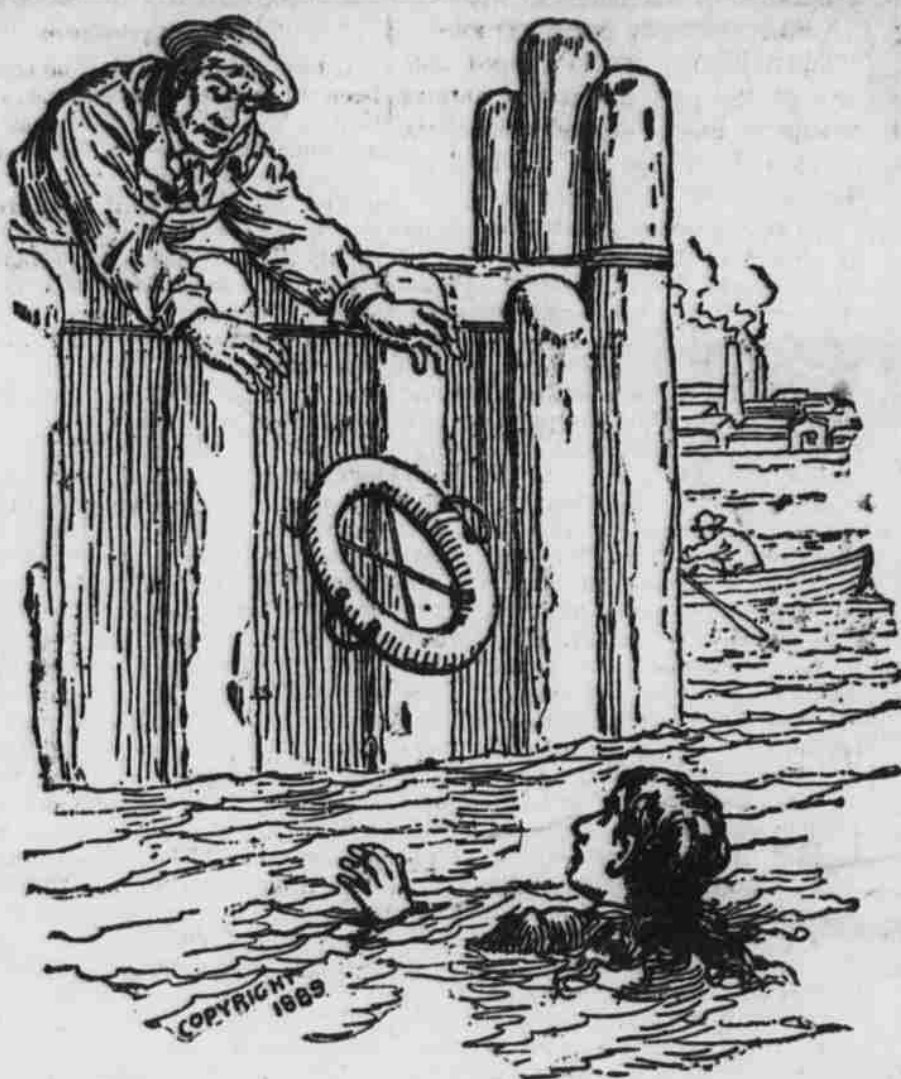
Mr. Peters answered: "I think it is a contemptible thing."

In explanation, Mr. Peters said that a bounty was a departure from the long settled policy of tariff, with which the people were familiar; it was untried and unknown. The imposition of a bounty would invite a constant agitation of the question, to the detriment of the industry. Kansas needed additional capital to put up sorghum sugar mills, but that capital could not be obtained under a bounty. He spoke from personal experience in that matter and knew what the feeling of capitalists was.

Messrs. Gear and Bayne plied the witness with a series of questions with a view to inducing the admission that a bounty would be a better thing to the country than to maintain the present rate of sugar duty. The witness, however, argued strongly in favor of the retention of the duty. He said that there was a feeling of unrest among the farmers of his State which, if not allayed, might result in making Kansas with its 82,000 Republican majority a Democratic State. And this was not one-sided; the feeling permeated Missouri and Texas—and was bringing about a political revolution in those States. As far as the Kansas farmer was concerned, he believed that if he was assured of a satisfactory market for his sugar cane he would be satisfied. The duty on sugar would secure this. There was a terrible feeling of unrest in Kansas, and with corn selling at 10, 12 and 15 cents a bushel the people were mad and expected some legislation to relieve their wants.

In further elucidation of his argument Mr. Peters spoke of the production of beet sugar. He told of a sorghum mill in his district, the proprietor of which had planted 44-100 acres in beets, from which he had raised sixty tons, out of which he had made 10,000 pounds of sugar, polarizing 99 per cent. This demonstrated, he said, that the beet could be profitably grown there and the finest quality of sugar made from it at the rate of 100 pounds of sugar to the ton of beets.

Henry T. Oxnant, of Grand Island, Neb., made an argument in favor of protection to the beet sugar industry, predicting that within twenty years beet root would outstrip sugar cane and sorghum in the production of sugar.



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